

GODDARD TOASTMASTERS --- CLUB 3496, AREA 42, DISTRICT 36

# The Oracle

Volume 3, Number 3, May 22, 2002  
Dr Bigyani Das, Editor

[http:// toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov)



*The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication skills, which in confidence and*



*and leadership turn foster self personal growth.*

***Toastmasters International***

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## ***Editorial (Statistical Randomness)***

*Bigyani Das, CTM*

Statistical Randomness is not the concept only in scientific data analysis and data management. It is the concept that governs the success and failure of leadership and specifically the operation of many voluntary and professional organizations. Some leaders face many new challenges and some leaders face fewer challenges. President Franklin Delanor Roosevelt had to face the challenge of World War II. President George Bush had to face the challenge of World Trade Center and Pentagon attack. President Clinton faced the challenge of bad economy. Similarly in our Toastmasters Club leadership we also face challenges. These challenges are due to statistical randomness. By this randomness factor all the officers might stay in a good mood and cooperate with the club President, all the members become determined and want to progress



in their goals, no physical or mental pain occurs to anybody and so everybody becomes cooperative. Then we reach many goals; we become Distinguished; we become Select Distinguished and through that, we all win. *(continued on pg. 2)*

However, with statistical randomness, leadership still has a role in it. If the President doesn't care, then automatically, everybody follows that path. Yet, there are cases when the President cares, but due to some statistical randomness, due to physical and psychological factors, other officers and members can't cooperate. Then we face a critical situation and we all lose.

We can't avoid our luck; the effect of the statistical randomness factor on our life. However, we still can work for our goals if we always keep ourselves ready to meet the challenges. If we keep our goal to achieve 100% in the test, we can surely get above 70%. But if we shrink our goal, then we can never reach there.



So friends, irrespective of all the demands of our work, and physical and mental stress, let's all promise that out of 24 meetings per year we should attend at least 15 meetings, give at least 6 speeches, be Toastmaster of the Day at least twice and take some other jobs at least twice.

If all of us promise that, we can make our club Select Distinguished every year. Why not make the coming year's goal to be President Distinguished?

### ***Leadership*** ***Glenna J. Paulson***

**L**OYALTY  
**E**NTHUSIASM  
**A**SSERTIVENESS  
**D**EDICATION  
**E**NERGY  
**R**ESOURCES  
**S**UPPORT  
**H**ONESTY  
**I**NTEGRITY  
**P**EOPLE



Leadership is the Art of influencing and directing people to accomplish the mission. The two basic concepts that an effective leader must keep in mind encompasses two fundamental elements: (1) The Mission and (2) The People.

Our mission at NASA is to continuously exceed our customer's expectations. A true leader will lead their people to successfully carry out the mission. If leadership is not directed towards the mission and the people, then leadership has failed.

So, what does it take to be a successful leader? It takes Loyalty: the validity to superiors, peers and subordinates; it takes enthusiasm: the intense feeling for a cause; it takes assertiveness: to express a positive view; it takes dedication: to commit to a particular course of action; it takes energy: *your* power in action; it takes resources: your most

available assets; it takes support: the best assistance one can get; it takes honesty: the art of being sincere; it takes integrity: the establishment of values and adhering to those values and last and most important, it takes people: because people are the heart of the organization! Without them, no leader could succeed.

\* \* \* \*

### ***Keeping SHARP this Summer*** ***By Jeff Bolognese, ATMB/CL***

Over the past several years, Goddard Toastmasters have had the privilege of helping students in the Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) improve their public speaking skills and prepare for their end-of-year presentations. This year we've once again been requested to be a part of the SHARP program.

The 25 SHARP participants that will be here at GSFC this summer are all exceptional students with strong interest in science, math or engineering. Over the course of their 8-week program they will work with scientists and engineers on a variety of research projects and then present their work during a poster session. Goddard Toastmasters play an important role in preparing the students for that final presentation.



This year we'll be presenting a compressed version of the Toastmasters Youth Leadership program. The program was designed as an 8-week crash course in Toastmasters and public speaking. It introduces students to the various TM meeting roles such as Toastmaster of the Day and Evaluator. More importantly, the program helps students hone their skills in speech organization and presentation, impromptu speaking, listening and evaluating, and meeting management. It's a lot to cover in a short time, but the students learn a great deal.

Here's where your participation makes it all come together. We need volunteers to act as evaluators for the students' speeches, table topics masters, and, Toastmasters to make presentations on public speaking skills. Here are some of the topics we may want presented:

- Impromptu Speaking
- Organize Your Speech
- Using Body Language
- Evaluations
- Preparation and Practice

These are just a few of the possible topics. As further incentive to you, each of the speeches above have already been written and are part of the "Better Speaker" or "Successful Club" series of presentations produced by Toastmasters. They run about 10-15 minutes and come complete with script and viewgraphs. All they need are speakers!

So, if you'd like to be part of an important educational program here at GSFC and help out some gifted students, please contact me or Jane Liu and let us know how you'd like to contribute.

***DO IT ANYWAY***  
***Contributed by Wanda David***  
(Written By Mother Theresa)

People are often unreasonable, illogical,  
and self-centered;  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, People may accuse you  
of selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some  
false friends and some true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank,  
people may cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone  
could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,  
they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.



The good you do today,  
people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,  
and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got  
anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,  
it is between you and God;  
It was never between you and them  
anyway

***Effective Evaluation***  
***Contributed by Paul McCeney, ATM***

( Extracted from the comments by David Soule, DTM, at the Eastern Division  
Educational Workshop on Evaluation – February 10, 1979)

I think evaluation does a vast amount of good, if it is well given and well received. Real criticism seeks to discover the truth, and I think that's what our people were doing this morning.

We agree to find fault; and, of course, some people do enjoy doing that! The real critic is one who appraises, evaluates, adjudicates, reviews, discriminates, and tries to arrive at the true value of the speech. He's eager to recognize merit just as he is to identify fault. Now, if we apply this principle to speech evaluation, then we look at these kinds of statements: The evaluator who says, "I can't find a thing to criticize about this speech," or the one who says, "That was a good speech, and this is why I think it was good." Doesn't that tell you more? The good critic, in other words, seeks to build up and not to tear down.

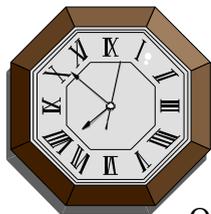
The real critic never says, "I can't find anything wrong to criticize in this speech." He knows that the results are what really count, so he tries to help the speaker achieve those results. First, he helps the speaker by showing him how. I want to point out about four things that I saw happen among our evaluators today -- not to pick on any one of them. Would you say, or let me word it positively, don't say, "Your voice was weak," say, "Speak louder." You heard that said today. There was a comment about, "Your eye contact was poor." "Look at us more," is the better way. And the comments that were made about gestures today. I didn't hear any comment, "You didn't use gestures," but there were comments positively made, "Use more gestures," "Take your hands off the lectern," this kind of thing. And one that was emphasized perhaps the most was the statement about preparedness. Instead of saying, "You were unprepared," say, and our winner did say, "Practice one more time."



Now, two things that I would like to close with. As an evaluator, I think our people were at a disadvantage. What were they evaluating against in terms of was it Project No. 1, or No. 5? And so we should have had that somewhere in the program. If I were a speaker, I would like to know from my evaluator, "Did I pass the lesson or didn't I?"

### ***End of Another Toastmasters Year***

***Mike Heney, CTM/CL***



Ahhh, the end of another Toastmasters year - and of the current Administration's term in office. It's been a rewarding year, a fun year, and a busy year; I think overall that Goddard Toastmasters is in pretty good shape!

One of the pleasant surprises over the past couple of months have been the influx of new members - hats off to our VP-Membership Kathleen Fernandez and everyone who has brought guests to the meetings for helping our club grow. We've had 8 people join up since January - welcome to Austin Conaty, Wanda David, Igor Eberstein, Moses McCall, Glenna Paulson, James Windham, Esther Woodward, and Shujia Zhou! It's good to have you all on board!

We've also had a couple educational goals met - Jane Liu earned her ATM-Silver in May, and Bigyani Das will finish up her ATM-Bronze in June. Congratulations to both of you! Combined with our new members, getting our paperwork in on time, and CL (Competent Leader) awards from earlier this year, it looks like we'll meet a total of 8 goals out of 10 in the Distinguished Club program, which will qualify us as a Select Distinguished club for the second year in a row.

We held our International Speech and Evaluations contests in February; Bigyani Das was our speech contest winner, and Martha O'Bryan won the Evaluations contest. Both went on to represent us at the Area 42 contest in March, and performed very well there.

As we go to press, our elections for the 2002-2003 Toastmasters year loom before us; barring a contested election (not likely!), Bigyani Das will be our President for next year; let's give her and her team the support they need to keep our club thriving.

As always, we meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in Building 28, Room E210 (usually); meetings run from 11:30 to 1:00. We'll be in a different location (currently B28/S216) for July - our annual "booted out of our room for the summer" exodus. See you there!

## **Sariputta** **Bigyani Das, CTM**

The original writer of this story is Surendra Mohanty, the great story writer of Orissa. Orissa is an Eastern Coastal state of India from where the chariot festival (since called "rathayatra" in Odia, the language of Orissa) began. This story was originally written in Oriya /Odia, the exact translation of which would be bigger. I am presenting only a brief translation of the story keeping the main essence which is based upon a mother's feeling. I have presented this story as a speech under the title "Celebration". The meanings of some unusual words are explained at the end of this story.



Sariputta was the only son of Rupashree, the jewel of her heart, the apple of her eye and the light of her life. However, that light disappeared when Sariputta left home. Sariputta went to see a play, "Nirvana", by Buddhist monks and came back home as a different person. That day Sariputta did not take cows to the field for grazing, take a bath or eat. Rupashree asked a thousand questions, but he did not answer. Then after a long time, he asked to her, "Will you die one day mother?" Rupashree smiled and said, "Is there anything new in it? Every human being has to die some day. Even the Gods have to die if they take birth on this earth."

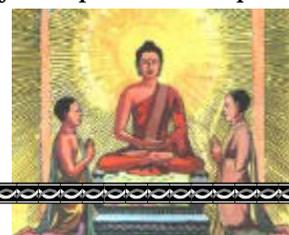
Sariputta became thoughtful and again asked, "Will I die some day mother?" Rupashree was shocked. She cried. She hugged Sariputta and then placed him in her lap. Then she said, "Dear, never say this again. I am living just for you. God will bless you to have a longer life."

Sariputta stood up and then started walking away in the opposite direction of the village road. Rupashree thought Sariputta would come back. He was just a confused kid asking silly questions. After having a walk and some fresh air his silly thoughts would go away and he would come back.

The day ended and it became evening. The cows returned after grazing. The bells rang in the temples and prayer started. It became night. Stars appeared in the sky. Where is Sari? Where is Sariputta?

Rupashree waited and waited. Days passed, months passed and years passed. Sariputta didn't return.

Rupashree hears stories about the great monk Sariputta, the brightest disciple of Buddha whose knowledge, wisdom, and



glories have spread all over the country. Rupashree doesn't become happy with Sariputta's fame. In her heart she prays the Lord, "Oh God! Please give the right knowledge to my child. Please save him from this madness. What can be more sinful than talking against Gods and Brahmins? All human beings are equal! Can this be possible? Denying the holy scriptures would lead to destruction. Oh! God, Oh! The Savior, please forgive Sariputta and show him the right path".

Sometimes Buddhist monks come to Rupashree's hut for begging. But Rupashree doesn't give them alms. When she sees them, poison spreads through her arteries and veins throughout her body. "These monks are so unkind inside the shell of kindness. No houses, no mothers, no sons, no daughters, no attachment, no affection. Who then told them to take birth in this earth and add to the misery of the world?"

Rupashree becomes angry at Buddha and feels empathy for Gopa, Goutama Buddha's wife. Goutama left her with a baby boy to become a monk. He left her a miserable life. Rupashree cries when she thinks about Gopa's misery.

One day Rupashree heard from the villagers that the great Buddhist monk Sariputta was coming to visit the village. Rupashree also dreamt that Sariputta had returned. She went to the priest and asked if it was true. She offered her jewelry to the priest so that the priest could spend some time for her to do the right astrological calculations. The priest made the calculations and gave her good news. Rupashree's heart started dancing. In that afternoon when a Buddhist monk came to beg from her house, instead of becoming angry, she became kind and asked if he knew about Sariputta. The monk said, "Sure, I have come here with his message". Rupashree's joy had no bounds. She asked, "What message has Sariputta sent for me? Tell me O' Monk! I am waiting for him. Tell me O Monk. Is he alright?"

The monk said, "On the night of the next full moon he will come back." That day Rupashree became so merciful and generous that the monk couldn't carry all the alms from her house. Suddenly, she felt kindness for the homeless beggars.

Finally, the auspicious day arrived. The moon was rising above the King's palace from the jungle side. Rupashree was weaving her dream web while looking at the full moon. Again, her shattered house would be filled with joy and happiness. This time she would not allow Sariputta leave the house without performing his marriage in a grand celebration. That pretty girl Upali! Rupashree had already chosen her for Sariputta. Once Sariputta become trapped in the beautiful eyes of Upali, he wouldn't leave his house again to be with the monks. O God!, This time her dear Sari should come back forever, not leave the house again.

The moon had moved to the center of the sky. In the sky of Rupashree's mind, the thoughts were deepening. Suddenly she heard somebody's voice, "Buddham Saranam Gacchaami."

Rupashree followed the voice and ran to the monk hysterically calling, "Sari, Sari, Sariputta!"

A bald headed beggar with a thin, frail body touched her feet. Rupashree asked in a worried voice, "Please tell me O' Monk, where is Sariputta? Today is the full moon night."

The monk said, "I am Sariputta, Mother. I have come from Lumbini."

"This is Sariputta! The bald headed, weak and frail beggar! And uttering the evil phrase 'Buddham Saranam Gacchaami'."

It was a mockery of her shattered home, the death of her dreams. All of a sudden Rupashree became bold and asked, "Tell me O Beggar, what do you want from me? You are the great disciple of Buddha, the wise and learned monk Sariputta. I am a poor, miserable, childless mother. What do I have? What alms can I give you?" Rupashree's voice was shaking.

Sariputta said, "Mother, Lord Buddha has asked Lady Goutami to join the association. I need you as her assistant. That is what I beg from you Mother."

Rupashree was looking at the full moon with a pained feeling.

Sariputta said, "Mother, please repeat the holy phrase with me, 'Buddham Saranam Gacchaami'."

Rupashree's voice became harsh. "Go back to your association O' Beggar. The association that is built upon the fire of unhappiness and misery will not sustain. This is my curse."

Sariputta was shocked and said, "Mother!"

Rupashree sarcastically replied, "Who is the mother of a beggar, Sariputta?"

Sariputta asked in a peaceful voice, "Lord Buddha's association is the only way towards Nirvana, the salvation. Do you not desire salvation Mother?"

"Go back, O Beggar! I desire life, not Nirvana, not freedom from life."

Rupashree returned to her empty hut. Sariputta vanished with the full moon night as a bodyless shadow.

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### **Meaning of some unusual words and phrases in the above story:**

Rupashree: The lady's name, means very beautiful.

Sariputta: A boy's name, "putta" means son.

Nirvana: Salvation

Goutama: Buddha's real name

Gopa: Goutama's wife

Lumbini: The name of a place

Buddham Saranam Gacchaami: I will take the shelter of Buddha



## *Reach for the Stars*

Congratulations to **Jane Liu** for finishing her ATM Silver goals.



### *Welcome New Members:*

Goddard Toastmasters Club welcomes Austin Conaty, Wanda David, Igor Eberstein, Moses McCall, Glenna Paulson, James Windham, Esther Woodward, and Shujia Zhou.

### *Congratulations to the New Representatives of Our Club*

We congratulate the following volunteers for the Club Leadership Positions for the Upcoming Toastmaster Year:

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>President -</i>           | <i>Bigyani Das- x6-8090</i>  |
| <i>VP Education -</i>        | <i>Carolyn Ng - x6-1359</i>  |
| <i>VP Membership -</i>       | <i>Jane Liu - x6- 2468</i>   |
| <i>VP Public Relations -</i> | <i>Wanda David - x6-1091</i> |
| <i>Treasurer -</i>           | <i>Mike Heney- x4-6267</i>   |
| <i>Secretary -</i>           | <i>Mike Rilee - x6-4743</i>  |
| <i>Sergeant-at-Arms -</i>    | <i>Don Moore - x6-9195</i>   |



### *Announcements*

**The Induction Ceremony for the New Members, and our Club's Annual Picnic** will be held on June 26, 2002. Please participate and have fun. More information on this will be available soon.

District 36 **Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)** will hold its training sessions on Saturday, June 15 at GEICO, 5260 Western Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20076 from 9:00 a.m until 1:00 p.m. The next training session will be held on Sunday, July 14 at UHUS, 4301 Jones Bridge Rd, Bethesda, MD 22312, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Four officers from each club should be trained at both the summer and winter TLI's.

### *May Meeting Minutes*

On May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Toastmaster of the Day was Paul McCeney. Jeff Bolognese presented the word of the day as "Irony". He explained the word by giving different examples of verbal sarcasm and dramatic presentation. The thought of the day was presented by Wanda David. She read a small poem on "smile". Smile just comes in a flash, but the memory lasts forever. There were

three prepared speeches by Bigyani Das, Jane Liu and Mike Rilee. Bigyani presented the speech from the Story Telling manual with the title "Celebration". Jane Liu talked on "Alternative Vehicle" and completed her ATM Silver requirements. Mike Rilee talked on "An Alternative to Sprawl" from the Basic Manual. Mike Heney led the Table Topic discussion on various

officer's positions in a Toastmasters Club. Martha O'Bryan was the General Evaluator. Carolyn Ng evaluated Bigyani's speech. Regina Cody evaluated Jane's speech and Jeff Bolognese evaluated Mike Rilee's speech. Jane Liu was the Best Speaker, Paul McCeney was the Best Table Topic Respondent and Carolyn Ng got the Best Evaluator award.

Bigyani Das was the TMOD on our May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. She presented the word of the day as PROMISE and she kept the thought TO TRY BEST TO KEEP A PROMISE. Three prepared speeches were delivered by Mike Rilee, Don Moore and Wanda David. Mike spoke

on "Ki, ken, Tai, Ichi". Don read the poem "The Death of the Hired Man" by Robert Frost. Wanda David gave her Ice Breaker speech on "The Journey Back". The Table Topics session was led by Carolyn Ng. Jeff Bolognese was the general evaluator. Paul McCeney evaluated Mike Rilee's speech, Maureen Armbruster evaluated Don Moore's speech and Mike Heney evaluated Wanda David's speech. Jeff Bolognese and Harold received the Best Table Topics respondent award, Mike Heney received the Best Evaluator award, and Wanda David received the Best Speaker award.

|                              |                    |                       |   |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>President:</b>            | Mike Heney         | <b>Meeting Dates:</b> | Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month  |
| <b>VP, Education:</b>        | Carolyn Ng         | <b>Place:</b>         | Bldg. 28, Rm E210 (90% of the time)   |
| <b>VP, Membership:</b>       | Kathleen Fernandez | <b>Time:</b>          | 11:30am-1:00pm  |
| <b>VP, Public Relations:</b> | Bigyani Das        | <b>Contacts:</b>      | Any officer or the WWW at:<br><a href="http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM">http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM</a> |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | Steve Palm         |                       |   |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | Mike Rilee         |                       |   |
| <b>SGT at Arms:</b>          | Don Moore          |                       |   |